



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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## HIGHLIGHTS

Montana Grain Movement  
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## Montana Grain Movement

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during July 2006 through December 2006 was 61.4 million bushels, which was down 26 percent from the previous year.

Just over 86 percent of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 53.2 million bushels, down 26 percent from a year earlier. Movements to eastern destinations during this period totaled 4.2 million bushels, up 18 percent from a year ago. Other and unknown destinations totaled 3.9 million bushels, down from 8.1 million bushels a year ago.

Wheat shipped by rail amounted to 58.5 million bushels, 95 percent of total shipments. Wheat trucked during this period was 2.9 million bushels compared with 3.0 million bushels last year. The percentage of wheat shipped by truck was 5 percent of the total, which was up 1 percentage point from the previous year.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations during the July 2006 to December 2006 period was 9.4 million bushels, up 29 percent from the same period last year.

Shipments of barley out of Montana headed for western destinations were up 37 percent from the same period last year, at 2.1 million bushels. Shipments to eastern destinations were down 5 percent from last year at 4.2 million bushels. Shipments to other destinations went up 1.8 million bushels from last year to 3.2 million bushels this year.

Barley shipped by rail amounted to 9.3 million bushels, up 2.5 million bushels from last year. Barley hauled by rail was 98 percent of total movement, up 5 percentage points from the same period last year.

## 2006 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 16.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 2006, compared with 17.4 million pounds in 2005. There were 19,400 cattle slaughtered during 2006, down 6 percent from the previous year. The total live weight of 23.2 million pounds was down 3 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 40 pounds to 1,197 pounds.

There were 15,200 hogs slaughtered in Montana, up 2 percent from 2005. Total live weight of 3.8 million pounds was up 1 percent from last year. The average live weight was 248 pounds per head compared with 251 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 3,600 head, unchanged from 2005. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 2006 decreased 15 percent from 2005 to 366,000 pounds. The average live weight of 102 pounds was 19 pounds lighter than the previous year.

The number of federally inspected slaughter plants in Montana on January 1, 2007 was 8, down 1 from 2006. There were 196 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 2007, up 2 from the same date a year ago.

Total red meat production for the United States totaled 47.7 billion pounds in 2006, 4 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 47.5 billion pounds. On farm production totaled 139 million pounds.

U.S. beef production totaled 26.3 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Veal production totaled 155 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year. Pork production, at 21.1 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year. Lamb and mutton production totaled 190 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2005.

## Wheat and Barley Shipments out of Montana from July 2006 through December 2005-2006 1/, 2/

	Barley		Durum Wheat		Hard White Wheat		Soft White Wheat		Spring Wheat		Winter Wheat		Total Wheat	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Shipments by Truck	(000) Bushels													
West	137	63	112	6	19	68	13	11	493	507	1,786	1,325	2,423	1,917
East	252	109	136	175	8	2	2	6	47	9	2	20	195	212
Other & Unknown	140	20	4	9	--	--	--	--	54	393	358	345	416	747
Total Shipments	529	192	252	190	27	70	15	17	594	909	2,146	1,690	3,034	2,876
Shipments by Rail														
West	1,381	2,012	269	245	99	386	--	--	30,596	16,491	38,410	34,196	69,374	51,318
East	4,157	4,095	2,610	3,739	42	--	--	--	622	265	89	--	3,363	4,004
Other & Unknown	1,264	3,147	3,350	1,243	--	--	--	--	3,797	1,490	491	427	7,638	3,160
Total Shipments	6,802	9,254	6,229	5,227	141	386	--	--	35,015	18,246	38,990	34,623	80,375	58,482
Total by Truck & Rail	7,331	9,446	6,481	5,417	168	456	15	17	35,609	19,155	41,136	36,313	83,409	61,358

1/ Data is reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers and is expanded to represent 100 percent of elevator capacity.

2/ 2005 revised.

## **2006 Red Meat Production** (continued from front page)

Commercial U.S. cattle slaughter during 2006 totaled 33.7 million head, up 4 percent from 2005, with federal inspection comprising 98.4 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,275 pounds, up 19 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 52.7 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 29.6 percent, dairy cows 7.1 percent, other cows 9.0 percent, and bulls 1.5 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 711,300 head, 3 percent lower than a year ago with 98.2 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 345 pounds, down 8 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial U.S. hog slaughter totaled 104.7 million head, 1 percent higher than 2005 with 99.0 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from last year, at 269 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.6 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial U.S. sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.70 million head, was up slightly from the previous year with 94.4 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was down 1 pound from 2005 to 137 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 95.4 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 793 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2007 in the United States compared with 806 last year. Of these, 636 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2006 with the 14 largest plants slaughtering 56 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 614 plants, with the 10 largest plants accounting for 47 percent of the total. Likewise, 5 of the 238 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 54 percent of the total and 4 of the 484 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2006 comprised 68 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for 52 percent of the United

States commercial red meat production in 2006, similar to 2005.

## **2006 Sweet Cherry Production, Utilization, and Value**

Montana sweet cherry growers produced a total of 2,400 tons in 2006, almost double the 2005 production of 1,230 tons and 2 percent higher than the 2,360 tons produced in 2004. However, due to extreme heat, hail, and cherries left on trees, only 580 tons were utilized, 51 percent lower than the 1,180 tons utilized in 2005 and 74 percent below the 2004 utilized total of 2,220 tons. The value of production for 2006 was \$1.1 million compared with \$4.2 million in 2005 and \$4.5 million in 2004. The average price per ton received for cherries during 2006 was \$1,850 compared with \$3,530 in 2005 and \$2,010 per ton in 2004. In 2006, there were 750 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.20 tons per acre, compared with 2005 when there were 740 bearing acres with an average yield of 1.66 tons per acre.

Sweet cherry producers in the United States harvested 293,560 tons in 2006, 17 percent higher than the 2005 total of 250,830 tons and 4 percent higher than the 2004 crop of 283,060 tons. Producers utilized 286,920 tons in 2006, 18 percent higher than the 243,570 tons utilized in 2005 and 3 percent higher than the 2004 utilized total of 279,160 tons. Value of production for the 2006 crop totaled \$487.5 million, which is 1 percent higher than the 2005 total of \$484.3 million and 12 percent higher than the \$437.1 million in 2004. The price per ton was \$1,700 in 2006 compared with \$1,990 in 2005, and \$1,570 in 2004. In 2006, there were 81,300 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.61 tons per acre, compared to 79,140 bearing acres and an average yield per acre of 3.17 tons in 2005, and 78,275 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.62 tons per acre in 2004.

## **February 2007 Red Meat Production**

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February 2007, up 7 percent from a year ago, but down 3

percent from last month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, 7 percent above a year ago. The average live weight of 1,208 pounds decreased 42 pounds from last year.

During February 1,100 hogs were slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight of 248 pounds was up 2 pounds from last year. February sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, up 100 head from February 2006. The average live weight decreased 16 pounds from last year to 120 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.62 billion pounds in February, up 4 percent from the 3.49 billion pounds produced in February 2006.

Beef production, at 1.95 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.56 million head, up 9 percent from February 2006. The average live weight was down 10 pounds from the previous year, at 1,274 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.2 million pounds, 7 percent above February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 66,900 head, up 27 percent from February 2006. The average live weight was down 50 pounds from last year, at 307 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.64 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.12 million head, down slightly from February 2006. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.4 million pounds, was down 2 percent from February 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 204,400 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, down 4 pounds from February a year ago.

January - February 2007 commercial red meat production was 7.7 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was up 14 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 5 percent.

## **February U.S. Milk Production Up 0.9 Percent**

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 13.1 billion pounds, up 0.9 percent from February 2006. January revised production, at 14.3 billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from January 2006. The January revision represented an increase of 48 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,586 pounds for February, no change from February 2006.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.28 million head, 71,000 head more than February 2006, but 3,000 head less than January 2007.

## **U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 4 Percent**

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.6 million head on March 1, 2007. The inventory was 4 percent below March 1, 2006 but 4 percent above March 1, 2005.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.66 million, 4 percent above 2006 and 9 percent above 2005. Net placements were 1.58 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 325,000, 600-699 pounds were 334,000, 700-799 pounds were 505,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 495,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.71 million, 7 percent above 2006 and 5 percent above 2005.

Other disappearance totaled 75,000 during February, 3 percent above 2006 but 3 percent below 2005.

## **March 1 Potato Stocks**

Montana potato producers held 3.0 million cwt in storage on March 1, 2007, down 6 percent from the previous year. The stocks represent 85 percent of the 2006 Montana potato crop.

The 13 major potato States held 153 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2007, down 1 percent from last year and 8 percent below March 1, 2005, for comparable States. Pennsylvania and Ohio were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 40 percent of the 2006 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks were added to the potato stocks program starting with December 2006 and total 2.20 million cwt on March 1, 2007. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon potato stocks.

Disappearance of 229 million cwt from the start of harvest to March 1, is up 5 percent from last year. Shrink and loss, at 20.1 million cwt, is up 9 percent from the previous year.

Processors have used 125 million cwt of 2006 crop potatoes so far this season, up 9 percent from a year ago and 5 percent above 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing increased 10 percent from a year ago, Maine's total processing was 12 percent above the same date in 2006, and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was up 3 percent from last season.

Dehydrating usage accounts for 25.6 million cwt of the total processing, up 12 percent from last year but 2 percent below the same date in 2005.

Western States held 107 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, down 7 percent from last year. Idaho's potato stocks are down 4 percent from last year, Washington's potato sheds held 12 percent less than last year, Oregon's stocks declined 16 percent from last season, and potato stocks in Montana are down 6 percent from 2006. Colorado potato sheds held 1 percent more stocks than last year and California's potato stocks increased 33 percent from last season.

Central States accounted for 35.2 million cwt of potato stocks on March 1, up 15 percent from last year. Wisconsin's potato stocks increased 11 percent from last year, North Dakota's sheds held 32 percent more, Minnesota stocks are up 11 percent, and potato stocks in Michigan are 13 percent above last

season. Nebraska's potato stocks are unchanged from the same date in 2006.

Eastern States stored 10.8 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, up 13 percent from last year. Maine's potato sheds held 19 percent more than last year, while New York's potato stocks declined 33 percent from a year ago.

## **February Egg Production Down 1 Percent**

U.S. egg production totaled 6.91 billion during February 2007, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 5.92 billion table eggs, and 998 million hatching eggs, of which 937 million were broiler-type and 61 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2007 averaged 347 million, down 1 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,992 eggs, down slightly from February 2006.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2007 totaled 347 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 347 million layers consisted of 288 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.82 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2007, averaged 71.6 eggs per 100 layers, unchanged from March 1, 2006.

Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2007 totaled 36.8 million, up 9 percent from February 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 38.5 million on March 1, 2007, up 5 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 166,000 during February 2007, down 15 percent from February 2006.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during February 2007 totaled 724 million, down 1 percent from February 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 664 million on March 1, 2007, down slightly from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.07 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2007, down 7 percent from February 2006.

#### COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

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